

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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Exploitation of the Rhodope Mines

1. The plant for handling minerals at Kurdzhali (N 41-39, E 25-21), which was built by the Germans during World War II, is being enlarged. It is now working 24 hours a day and employs 1,000 laborers. An aerial conveyor, also constructed by the Germans, connects the plant with the Burieva mines. During 1951, work was in progress on an aerial conveyor of the same sort from the Konski Dol area. Both the works (sic) and the new construction are under the direction of Lyuben Nachev, an engineer. A railroad siding runs from the plant to the Kurdzhali railroad station, and minerals, after treatment, are loaded on cars inside the factory.
2. During the summer of 1952, approximately 20,000 workers were employed in the town of Kurdzhali, constructing new branches of the factory, houses for workers, large workshops for automobile repairs, technical schools, a "culture" house, and a stadium. Kurdzhali is being planned as a large industrial center. The number of inhabitants is increasing constantly; the population is approximately 32,000 at present, but plans are being made for 100,000.
3. The Rhodopes seem to be attracting increasing attention from the Soviets. There is a total of approximately 100,000 civilian workers and 4,000 Trudovaks in the whole Rhodope area. Lead, tin, chrome, sulfur, and uranium deposits are being developed. Little is known about the uranium development here, except that it is distinct from the Bukhovo Mines near Sofia.
4. A new plant for treating minerals has been completed in Madan village (N 41-30, E 24-57). It is planned that Madan will be an important center of the district. Blocks of workers' homes have been built near the processing plant.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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5. At Strashimir, a plant for treating minerals has also been constructed. This plant serves the mines which are located in the mountains approximately 600 meters above the village, with which it is linked by an aerial conveyor. Lodgings for surface workers and miners are being built around the factory.
6. A similar plant has been built at Srednogortsi (N 41-32, E 24-55). An electric plant which has two diesel motors, for supplying the plant and other installations, is located near the plant; workers' lodgings have also been constructed near the plant. In the village of Srednogortsi, there is a gasoline depot, workshops, and a large automobile park, all of which belong to Goruhso, the Soviet enterprise which is exploiting the Rhodope Mines.
7. A large plant for treating minerals was built at Rudozem (N 41-29, E 24-53) in the autumn of 1952. This town is to be developed to accommodate 20,000 people and will be renamed Chervenkovgrad unless Prime Minister Chervenkov is purged in the meantime. The Sovbolstroil (Soviet-Bulgarian construction enterprise) has a large truck park in Rudozem. The mineral processing plant is connected with the Ribnitsa Mines, seven kilometers away, by aerial conveyor.
8. Three galleries have been opened in the Ribnitsa Mine (N 41-28, E 24-51) which is seven kilometers from the Greek frontier. There is some indication, by no means definite as yet, that uranium ore has also been found in this locality. Houses for technical and administrative personnel of the mines, as well as automatic truck-loading apparatus, are being constructed at this location.
9. Since the mining basin of the Rhodopes is considered as a frontier zone, all inhabitants of the area must have a "propusk" (pass), which is a small booklet, blue in color. The first and outer page of the propusk bear the words "Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Upravlenie Madan, Propusk No...." The second page carries the photograph and signature of the bearer. The third page has the family and Christian names of the bearer, and a description of the parts of the mines which the bearer is authorized to enter. The last (fourth) page carries instructions for the bearer of the propusk.
10. The propusk is valid for six months, but may be extended. A person leaving the district must turn the pass in to the cadre section which originally issued it. A propusk cannot be secured by individuals themselves, but must be requested of the Militia administrative office for Madan, through the cadre section of the mine when a worker or other employee is being recruited. If one has a propusk and wishes to visit a relative who works in a mine or workshop, he must apply to the Militia post, where he leaves his propusk and is supplied with a special pass for the visit. The person whom he is visiting signs this pass, and the visitor turns over this special pass when he leaves and receives his original propusk. Militia men frequently check documents carried by the workers. Militia posts, armed with sub-caliber machine guns, are everywhere in garages, workshops, depots, road intersections, and the entry and exit of every factory and village.

Peasant Dissatisfaction with Flour Milling System

11. As a result of the Communist nationalization of flour mills, a good many of the mills which existed in rural areas have been completely closed, which makes it difficult for peasants to have their grain ground into flour or feed. In some districts, there is only one mill to serve the needs of 20 to 25 villages.
12. Millers are overwhelmed with demands and cannot grind the grain as fast as it is brought in. Peasants lose a great deal of time in returning to the mill, only to find that their grain has not been ground. In some cases, it is a month or more before the flour is ready for delivery, and the peasant has had to make many trips before finally receiving it.

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13. When the peasants protest, the Communists make accusations and bring them into court. The complaining peasant is accused of being an adherent of G.M.Dimitrov or of having relations with "illegal" persons. One purpose of this is to keep the peasants terrorized and to encourage pro-Communist espionage among neighbors.

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